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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Identical letters dated 2 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you herewith the text of a statement adopted by the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at its meeting held today, Tuesday, 2 April 1996, at the United Nations in New York (see annex). The Contact Group met to consider the deterioration of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of the massacre of 22 Kashmiris at the Hazrat Bal Shrine in Srinagar and the abduction and custodial killing of Mr. Jalil Andrabi, Chairman of the Kashmiri Commission of Jurists.

I would appreciate it if you would have the present letter and the enclosed statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 112, and of the Security Council, while considering such action as you may deem appropriate to defuse the tension and to prevent repetition of the violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people.

(Signed) Mahawa Bangoura CAMARA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman OIC Contact Group on Kashmir

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ANNEX

Statement by the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir

In a meeting held at the United Nations in New York on 2 April 1996, the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir of the Organization of the Islamic Conference considered the worsening of the situation in Kashmir in the wake of the massacre of 22 Kashmiris at the Hazrat Bal Shrine in Srinagar and the custodial killing of Mr. Jalil Andrabi, Chairman of the Kashmir Commission of Jurists.

The OIC Contact Group condemned the indiscriminate killing by Indian forces of 22 Kashmiris in Srinagar on 30 March 1996, at the end of the siege of the Hazrat Bal Shrine.

The OIC Contact Group noted with dismay that the Indian authorities' disrespect of holy places in Indian-held Kashmir has emerged as a particularly disturbing feature of the campaign to crush the Kashmiri people's struggle for self-determination. This was the second siege of the Hazrat Bal Shrine since October 1993. It came in the wake of the desecration of the venerated shrine of Charar Sharif, which was burnt to the ground last year.

The OIC Contact Group further expressed its shock at the brutal murder of Mr. Jalil Andrabi, Chairman of the Kashmir Commission of Jurists. Mr. Andrabi was proceeding to attend the current meeting of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Prior to his departure, Mr. Andrabi was kidnapped by elements of the notorious Rashtriya Rifles on 8 March 1996 in the presence of his wife. Mr. Andrabi's body was found on 27 March in the river Jhelum with his hands and feet tied.

The OIC Contact Group expressed its grave concern at the rapidly deteriorating situation in Kashmir. The Group called on the Indian authorities to stop the continuing violence against the Kashmiri people and to end the grave human rights violations being perpetrated in Indian-occupied Kashmir.

Reaffirming the OIC resolution on Jammu and Kashmir adopted at the Seventh Islamic Summit, held at Casablanca, the Contact Group expressed complete solidarity with the Kashmiri people. It urged the United Nations Secretary-General to take due cognizance of the deteriorating situation in Kashmir. It also appealed to the President of the Security Council to take note of the situation and to bring the matter to the attention of the Security Council for appropriate action.